



NEWS

FROM THE MONTREAL YMCA

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For Immediate Release

YOUTH COUNCILS SHOW WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE CAN DO

Four Youth Councils in operation on the Lakeshore are proving that young people today can accept responsibilities and carry-out well-planned programs to meet the needs of the teen population. Approximately one-half of the Lakeshore's nearly 3,500 teenagers regularly participate in programs organized by these young leaders.

The Youth Council is a group of about 15 young men and women between 15 and 18 years who meet with Lakeshore YMCA staff advisors to plan and conduct recreational activities for teens in its particular area. Its prime purpose is not to keep teens off the streets, nor just to keep them occupied, but rather to provide social and character growth programs.

The four Councils set up their own organizations, elect their own officers and make their own decisions. YMCA Staff Advisors assist only to help the groups work out methods and provide resources for solving problems.

Rules of dress and behavior are established and strictly enforced by the teens themselves. They manage their own business affairs including budgeting for programs and banking. They also face squarely up to their mistakes.

Young people show in these councils that they are willing and able to carry out the responsibilities which go with freedom. Their programs are of a high calibre and duties are carried out promptly.

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WEST END YOUTH COUNCIL

The activities of this group are centered in the "Coop" at Baie d'Urfe. Programs consist mainly of regular dances and lounges. The Council also conducts an annual Driver Training Program in summer, and takes an active part in the Baie d'Urfe Day activity each year.

NEW "Y" TEEN COUNCIL

The New "Y" Council conducts its activities in the YMCA headquarters building, Pointe Claire, and in various schools in the area. The Council operates noon hour and after-school drop-in lounges, and regular Saturday night dances. Its highly successful "Blue Bunny" teen night club has outgrown the Y Building and now is held in school gyms.

VPB YOUTH COUNCIL

The Valois-Pointe Claire-Beaconsfield Council is now in its eighth year. The Council conducts lounges on Wednesday evenings and Saturday night dances in the Youth Hall on Lakeshore Road, Pointe Claire. Other activities included trips to Camp Perrot, ski trips, and the sponsorship of a Foster Child (through special dances and other events).

JUNIOR YOUTH COUNCIL

This is a group of younger teenagers (ages 13-15), who organized a council of their own because of different interests and emphasis on activities. The Junior Youth Council has its headquarters at the Lakeshore 'Y' building in Pointe Claire.

The Lakeshore YMCA looks forward to the establishment of more youth councils in the communities of the West Island. At the moment, the formation of a council on Ile Perrot is well underway. The Town of Pincourt has already made available a house to serve as the "teen center" and young people are working with the YMCA representative to organize programs.